

began the movement of more environmental legislation.

The issue is not the environmental legislation that was passed. The issue is today how we are carrying out that environmental legislation. I want to read to you the purpose statement set forth by the Congress of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, known as NEPA.

That purpose and policy statement reads as follows: To declare a national policy which will encourage production and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to this Nation.

You see, Mr. Speaker, NEPA is a very important document that has been for too long overlooked. First, NEPA is the national policy which recognizes the importance of production from our natural resources. In fact, the first purpose listed uses the words "encourage production." Second, NEPA recognizes man as an important element of our environment when it states "Harmony between man and his environment." Not only does NEPA recognize man as extremely important in this equation, but recognizes that the environment is his. NEPA indicates that man has the right of possession of the natural resources, but that these resources are to be used in a responsible manner, not to be locked away without man's use. Then NEPA recognizes that man has a role to prevent damage to the environment, so as to stimulate the health and welfare of man.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, NEPA tells us that we must enrich that understanding and importance of natural resources to our Nation. While NEPA clearly defines the role of man with his environment, we as a law making body have failed—failed to provide proper management of our natural forests. The Federal agencies have diverted congressional funds to other programs such as affirmative action programs and ecosystem management programs, multiple agreements with other agencies which are diverted into programs such as ecosystem management. And while this has happened, we have allowed a huge buildup of fuel to build up on the forest floor, creating tremendous potential for fires. That is the reason for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, last year in the Northwest alone we had 67,000 fires. We burned 8.135 billion board feet of timber. That is enough to construct 542,000 homes and provide 1.5 million jobs just in home construction.

After 9 years of continuous drought in the West, and without proper thinning and harvest, and contrary to the acts of Congress that established the national forests in the beginning, the health and stability of these Fed-

eral lands have deteriorated rapidly. Wild fires have devastated millions of acres.

Mr. Speaker, unless these dead stands of timber, the dead and dying timber, is removed immediately through proper harvesting and we return to a proper role of management in our national forests, there will be a tremendous amount of eroded soil to flush into our mountain streams that destroy critical spotting and rearing habitat for our endangered species, the listed salmon.

Although Federal authorities have authority under present law to remove dead and dying timber from our national forests, they have failed to do so, and this is why at this time Congress must intervene to correct this mismanagement.

Timber salvage and proper forest health not only makes good sense for the environment, it makes good sense for our rural communities, our schools, and our roads and the national Treasury.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to close my comments by stating just a few things that wood provides, including rayon, photographic film, alcohol, football helmets, piano keys, on and on and on. This Nation cannot do without wood.

Mr. Speaker, I just hope that this body will recognize that and we can return to a multiple use, sustained yield policy in our national forests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] in recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. SANDERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. COOLEY] in recognized for 30 minutes.

[Mr. COOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. CLYBURN] in recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. CLYBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] in recognized for 60 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Miss COLLINS of Michigan (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of illness.

Mrs. THURMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of a death in the family.

Mr. BLILEY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), after 2 p.m. today, on account of illness.

Mrs. CUBIN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of recovering from surgery.

Mr. ROGERS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today until 5:30 p.m., on account of illness in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HANSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MANZULLO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CHABOT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HAYWORTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LINDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WAMP, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WHITFIELD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GUTIERREZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MONTGOMERY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KILDEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. MANZULLO) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HANSEN) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BUYER.

Mr. HASTER.

Mr. FAWELL.

Mr. BAKER of California.